Essentials of Geology GEOL-1303.W01  
Department of Physical and Environmental Sciences  
Fall 2017

A. COURSE INFORMATION

Course number/section: GEOL-1303.W01  
Class meeting time: Fully online  
Class location: N/A  
Course Website: https://bb9.tamucc.edu/webapps/login/

B. INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Dr. Dorina Murgulet  
Office location: NRC 3103  
Office hours: T/R 12:00 -2:30 pm  
Telephone: 361-825-2309  
e-mail: dorina.murgulet@tamucc.edu  
Appointments: call or email

C. COURSE DESCRIPTION

Catalog Course Description
One-semester introductory Earth science course for students majoring in a non-science subject area. Basic geologic material and concepts, such as minerals, rocks, the rock cycle, and plate tectonics theory. Origin, composition, and evolution of our planet, as well as the importance of geology in everyday life, including geologic resources, global change, earthquakes, and volcanism. May not be counted toward a degree in Geology or Environmental Sciences. Will not substitute for GEOL 1403. This course counts toward the natural science component of the University Core Curriculum Programs.

Extended Course Description
This fully online course is taught via the Web at a distance and is available at http://Bb9.tamucc.edu. The learners may need PowerPoint, spreadsheets, word processing, and other software as needed to complete some requirements of this course.

D. PREREQUISITES AND COREQUISITES

Prerequisites
No prerequisites. Non-science majors
Corequisites
N/A

E. REQUIRED TEXTBOOK(S), READINGS AND SUPPLIES

Required Textbook(s)
Physical Geology, Plummer, 15th ed. (Source McGraw-Hill Connect)
NOTE: Please note that you will be able to buy the manual (e-book or hard copy) when you first access CONNECT, the first day of school. If you choose to purchase the manual ahead of time, please make sure you go to the publisher, McGraw Hill, and purchase it with the CONNECT access code for the GEOL 1303 under the instructor’s name.

Optional Textbook(s) or Other References
Supplementary text and handouts will be provided as necessary.
Online Homework Account: Connect

Readings
• Geology is a cumulative subject: you will need to use information from earlier in the course in later topics. The text book complements the online materials, but there is not complete overlap between chapters.
• Please read the pertinent chapter before working on the online LearnSmart, homeworks and quizzes.

Supplies
1) Scientific Calculator
2) Pencil, eraser and ruler (calculation problems must be done in pencil).

F. STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES AND ASSESSMENT
This class will cover the basic concepts of physical geology, emphasizing surficial and deep earth processes, including rock formation, plate tectonics, weathering and erosion, formation of landscapes, hydrogeology, and crustal deformation. We will also discuss how the Earth was formed, and the building materials of the Earth. The forces that shape the Earth’s crust and how it changes over time will also be covered.

The primary objectives of GEOL 1303 are to provide the student with the fundamental knowledge and tools necessary to understand and examine the following basic components:
• Understand the Scientific Method.
• Identify & understand the processes of formation of the major geologic materials (rocks/minerals, resources).
• Appreciate the Earth’s interior and surface processes.
• Gain an overview of the physical and biological history of the Earth, including its formation.
• Identify the ways in which geology affects your life.
• Discover interactions between geology and other realms of knowledge.

G. INSTRUCTIONAL METHODS AND ACTIVITIES
The following instructional methods and activities will be used: Lecture Power Points, Homework and Quizzes, Learn Smart, and Discussion Board.

H. MAJOR COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING

Required Readings
• Physical Geology, Plummer, 15th ed. (Source McGraw-Hill Connect)
Online Homework Account: Connect

Course Schedule

Reading Assignments from the Textbook
- Chapter 1- Introducing Geology, the Essentials of Plate Tectonics, and Other Important Concepts
- Chapter 2- Atoms, Elements, and Minerals
- Chapter 3- Igneous Rocks, the Origin and Evolution of Magma, and Intrusive Activity
- Chapter 4- Volcanism and Extrusive Rocks
- Chapter 5- Weathering and Soil
- Chapter 6- Sediment and Sedimentary Rocks
- Chapter 7- Metamorphism and Metamorphic Rocks
- Chapter 8- Time and Geology
- Chapter 9- Mass Wasting
- Chapter 10- Streams and Floods
- Chapter 11- Groundwater
- Chapter 12- Glaciers and Glaciation
- Chapter 13- Deserts and Wind Action
- Chapter 14- Waves, Beaches, and Coasts
- Chapter 15- Geologic Structures
- Chapter 16- Earthquakes
- Chapter 17- Earth's Interior and Geophysical Properties
- Chapter 18- The Sea Floor
- Chapter 19- Plate Tectonics--The Unifying Theory
- Chapter 20- Mountain Belts and the Continental Crust
- Chapter 21- Global Climate Change
- Chapter 22- Resources
- Chapter 23- The Earth's Companions

Connect Homework: When you start working on a chapter,
- first read the chapter,
- then look at the power point

After you feel comfortable with the material, start working on Learn Smart. This is fun homework to do and you can work on it until you get 100%. Then work on Homework (Assignment). You do not have unlimited tries on homework, so do not answer it randomly. Finally, take the chapter quiz. Your homework is extra credit and can help you improve your overall class performance (some of the homework questions will be repeated in quizzes and exam).

Evaluation:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Module 1 Quiz 2.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Module</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>----------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Module 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Module 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Module 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Module 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Module 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Module 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Module 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Module 9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Module 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Module 11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Module 12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Module 13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Module 14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total points</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Bonus Points

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>7.5</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Introduction and class discussions</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Bonus Points</strong></td>
<td><strong>10.5</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total possible points</strong></td>
<td><strong>110.5</strong> including bonus points</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Assignment Grades** are extra points that will be added to your “Final Total Grade”. You can accumulate up to 11.5 extra points by completing all the assignments. I highly encourage you to take advantage of these extra points because some of the questions in quizzes and final exam are similar to the assignment questions.

**Introduction Discussion and Class Discussion:** Before you start the course, you introduced yourself to your classmate and get 8 extra points that is added to your final grade. The other 12 extra points are from the discussions that will be assigned during the semester.

**Grade scale:** A = 90-100%; B = 80-90%; C = 70-80%; D = 60-70%; F = 0-60%
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COURSE CONTENT/SCHEDULE Module</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
<th>Assignments</th>
<th>Where and how to submit</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Module 1 folder – Ch. 2</td>
<td>Sept. 11</td>
<td>All these links are available in your Module 1 folder: 1. Read Chapter 2 and answer question in Learn Smart 2. Complete extra points Assignment 3. Take Quiz</td>
<td>Connect</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Module 2 folder – Ch. 3</td>
<td>Sept. 11</td>
<td>All these links are available in your Module 2 folder: 1. Read Chapters 3 and answer question in Learn Smart 2. Complete extra points Assignment 3. Take Quiz</td>
<td>Connect</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Module 3 folder – Ch. 4</td>
<td>Sept. 18</td>
<td>All these links are available in your Module 3 folder: 1. Read Chapter 4 and answer question in Learn Smart 2. Complete extra points Assignment 3. Take Quiz</td>
<td>Connect</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Module 4 folder – Ch. 5&amp;6</td>
<td>Sept. 25</td>
<td>All these links are available in your Module 4 folder: 1. Read Chapters 5&amp;6 and answer question in Learn Smart 2. Complete extra points Assignment 3. Take Quiz</td>
<td>Connect</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Module 5 folder – Ch. 7</td>
<td>Oct. 2</td>
<td>All these links are available in your Module 4 folder: 1. Read Chapters 7 and answer question in Learn Smart 2. Complete extra points Assignment 3. Take Quiz</td>
<td>Connect</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Module 6 folder – Ch. 8&amp;10</td>
<td>Oct. 9</td>
<td>All these links are available in your Module 5 folder: 1. Read Chapter 8&amp;10 and answer question in Learn Smart 2. Complete extra points Assignment 3. Take Quiz</td>
<td>Connect</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---------------------------</td>
<td>-------</td>
<td>-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>--------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Module 7 folder – Ch. 11</td>
<td>Oct. 16</td>
<td>All these links are available in your Module 7 folder: 1. Read Chapters 11 and answer question in Learn Smart 2. Complete extra points Assignment 3. Take Quiz</td>
<td>Connect</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Module 8 folder – Ch. 12</td>
<td>Oct. 23</td>
<td>All these links are available in your Module 8 folder: 1. Read Chapters 12 and answer question in Learn Smart 2. Complete extra points Assignment 3. Take Quiz</td>
<td>Connect</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Module 9 folder – Ch. 13&amp;14</td>
<td>Oct. 30</td>
<td>All these links are available in your Module 9 folder: 1. Read Chapters 13&amp;14 and answer question in Learn Smart 2. Complete extra points Assignment 3. Take Quiz</td>
<td>Connect</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Module 10 folder – Ch. 15</td>
<td>Oct. 30</td>
<td>All these links are available in your Module 10 folder: 1. Read Chapters 15 and answer question in Learn Smart 2. Complete extra points Assignment 3. Take Quiz</td>
<td>Connect</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Module 11 folder – Ch. 16&amp;17</td>
<td>Nov. 6</td>
<td>All these links are available in your Module 11 folder: 1. Read Chapter 16&amp;17 and answer question in Learn Smart 2. Complete extra points Assignment 3. Take Quiz</td>
<td>Connect</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Module 12 folder – Ch. 19</td>
<td>Nov. 13</td>
<td>All these links are available in your Module 12 folder: 1. Read Chapter 19 and answer question in Learn Smart 2. Complete extra points Assignment 3. Take Quiz</td>
<td>Connect</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------------------------</td>
<td>--------</td>
<td>-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>--------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Module 13 folder – Ch. 20</td>
<td>Nov. 20</td>
<td>All these links are available in your Module 13 folder: 1. Read Chapters 20 and answer question in Learn Smart 2. Complete extra points Assignment 3. Take Quiz</td>
<td>Connect</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No assignment</td>
<td>Nov. 27</td>
<td>Reading Days Thanksgiving Holidays No Classes</td>
<td>Connect</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Module 14 folder – Ch. 21</td>
<td>Dec. 4</td>
<td>All these links are available in your Module 14 folder: 1. Read Chapters 21 and answer question in Learn Smart 2. Complete extra points Assignment 3. Take Quiz</td>
<td>Connect</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>Dec. 11</td>
<td>Connect/</td>
<td>Connect</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Changes in this course schedule may be necessary and will be announced to the class by the Instructor. The assignments and exams shown are directly related to the Student Learning Outcomes described in Section F.

I. COURSE POLICIES

Attendance/Tardiness

N/A

Time Requirements

Regular 3-credit hour courses require approximately 3 hours of class time per week plus 9 hours of study time. Therefore, expect to spend a minimum of 12 hours each week for 15 weeks on this class. Because this is an online course, you may have to spend even more time than 12 hours some weeks.

Late Work and Make-up Exams

Assignment/ quizzes, learn smart, and final exam before need to e completed by the assigned due date. You should follow the due date on the table above. Finish at least one chapter a week. If you have time, you can complete the entire course early.
Grades of "INCOMPLETE" will be given only for certifiable medical reasons or in other extraordinary circumstances. Requests for incompleteds must be made in writing and must include:

- Documentation
- Advanced notice
- Date that coursework will be submitted

If the coursework is not submitted by that date, the Incomplete will become permanent.

Related Issues

Online courses require time management and planning on your part. You cannot afford to get behind since many topics and assignments are based on the skills and products of previous assignments; there is no meaningful way to "cram." Contact me if you are having any problems with assignments.

There is a reliance on technologies in this course that impacts the need to have assignments done on time. Having ample time to complete an assignment will be the responsibility of the student. It is also the student's responsibility to find solutions to technical problems with sufficient time to complete the required tasks. Do not wait until a due date is near to discover/report lack of access to software, inability to connect to a network, etc. While the instructor will help wherever possible, it is the students' responsibility to maintain his or her network. However, technical problems can originate on the TAMU-CC campus, in which case you will not be responsible to complete work that you cannot complete due to TAMU-CC network or software problems. You are responsible for contacting me as soon as you detect a problem so that we can arrange a way for you to meet the course objectives.

J. COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY POLICIES

Academic Integrity/Plagiarism

It is expected that university students will demonstrate a high level of maturity, self-direction, and ability to manage their own affairs. Students are viewed as individuals who possess the qualities of worth, dignity, and the capacity for self-direction in personal behavior. See Full University Policy at http://catalog.tamucc.edu/content.php?catoid=10&navoid=313#Academic_Integrity. Academic misconduct for which a student is subject to penalty includes all forms of cheating, such as illicit possession of examinations or examination materials, falsification, forgery, complicity or plagiarism (Plagiarism is the presentation of the work of another as one’s own work. In this class, academic misconduct or complicity in an act of academic misconduct on an assignment or test will result in (letter grade of F).

Deadline for Dropping a Course with a Grade of W (University)

I hope that you never find it necessary to drop this or any other class. However, events can sometimes occur that make dropping a course necessary or wise. Please consult with your academic advisor, the Financial Aid Office, and me, before you decide to drop this course. Should dropping the course be the best course of action, you must initiate the process to drop the course by going to the Student Services Center and filling out a course drop form. Just
stopping attendance and participation WILL NOT automatically result in your being dropped from the class. Please consult the Academic Calendar (http://www.tamucc.edu/academics/calendar/) for the last day to drop a course.

Classroom/professional behavior
Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, as an academic community, requires that each individual respect the needs of others to study and learn in a peaceful atmosphere. Under Article III of the Student Code of Conduct, classroom behavior that interferes with either (a) the instructor’s ability to conduct the class or (b) the ability of other students to profit from the instructional program may be considered a breach of the peace and is subject to disciplinary sanction outlined in article VII of the Student Code of Conduct. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior may be instructed to leave the classroom. This prohibition applies to all instructional forums, including classrooms, electronic classrooms, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc.

Statement of Civility (can be in place of classroom/professional behavior)
Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi has a diverse student population that represents the population of the state. Our goal is to provide you with a high quality educational experience that is free from repression. You are responsible for following the rules of the University, city, state and federal government. We expect that you will behave in a manner that is dignified, respectful and courteous to all people, regardless of sex, ethnic/racial origin, religious background, sexual orientation or disability. Behaviors that infringe on the rights of another individual will not be tolerated.

Grade Appeals (College of Science and Engineering Version)
As stated in University Procedure 13.02.99.C2.01, Student Grade Appeal Procedures, a student who believes that he or she has not been held to appropriate academic standards as outlined in the class syllabus, equitable evaluation procedures, or appropriate grading, may appeal the final grade given in the course. The burden of proof is upon the student to demonstrate the appropriateness of the appeal. A student with a complaint about a grade is encouraged to first discuss the matter with the instructor. For complete details, including the responsibilities of the parties involved in the process and the number of days allowed for completing the steps in the process, see University Procedure 13.02.99.C2.01, Student Grade Appeal Procedures. These documents are accessible through the University Rules website at http://www.tamucc.edu/provost/university_rules/index.html, and the College of Science and Engineering Grade Appeals webpage at http://sci.tamucc.edu/students/GradeAppeal.html. For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the chair or director of the appropriate department or school, the Office of the College of Science and Engineering Dean, or the Office of the Provost.

Statement of Academic Continuity
In the event of an unforeseen adverse event, such as a major hurricane and classes could not be held on the campus of Texas A&M University–Corpus Christi; this course would continue through the use of Blackboard and/or email. In addition, the syllabus and class activities may be modified to allow continuation of the course. Ideally, University facilities (i.e., emails, web sites, and Blackboard) will be operational within two days of the closing of the physical campus.
However, students need to make certain that the course instructor has a primary and a secondary means of contacting each student.

**Related Issues**
Online courses require time management and planning on your part. You cannot afford to get behind since many topics and assignments are based on the skills and products of previous assignments; there is no meaningful way to "cram." Contact me if you are having any problems with assignments.

There is a reliance on technologies in this course that impacts the need to have assignments done on time. Having ample time to complete an assignment will be the responsibility of the student. It is also the student's responsibility to find solutions to technical problems with sufficient time to complete the required tasks. Do not wait until a due date is near to discover/report lack of access to software, inability to connect to a network, etc. While the instructor will help wherever possible, it is the students' responsibility to maintain his or her network. However, technical problems can originate on the TAMU-CC campus, in which case you will not be responsible to complete work that you cannot complete due to TAMU-CC network or software problems. You are responsible for contacting me as soon as you detect a problem so that we can arrange a way for you to meet the course objectives.

**Disability Services**
The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please call (361) 825-5816 or visit Disability Services in Corpus Christi Hall 116.

If you are a returning veteran and are experiencing cognitive and/or physical access issues in the classroom or on campus, please contact the Disability Services office for assistance at (361) 825-5816.

http://disabilityservices.tamucc.edu/

**K. OTHER INFORMATION**
- **Academic Advising**
The College of Science & Engineering requires that students meet with an Academic Advisor as soon as they are ready to declare a major. The Academic Advisor will set up a degree plan, which must be signed by the student, a faculty mentor, and the department chair. Meetings are by appointment only; advisors do not take walk-ins. Please call or stop by the Advising Center to check availability and schedule an appointment. The College’s Academic Advising Center is located in Center for Instruction 350 or can be reached at (361) 825-3928.
L. **Syllabus Disclaimer**

This syllabus has been created as a guide to the class and is as accurate as possible. However, all information is subject to change. Any changes will be posted on the Blackboard Learning System’s Announcements.

M. **Technical Support and Requirements**

**Blackboard Learning System Help:** [http://iol.tamucc.edu](http://iol.tamucc.edu)

“Help” At the bottom of the Blackboard Course Management Control Panel in the course menu on the left hand column of the course interface. Phone: Help Desk (361) 825-2825

**Island Online Student Resources Webpage:**
[https://distance-education.tamucc.edu/student_resources.html](https://distance-education.tamucc.edu/student_resources.html)

**Getting Technical Help**

If you are having difficulties accessing course materials from your home computer, first let your instructor know, then contact the IOL Helpdesk at (361)825-2692 or submit a request via email to iol.support@tamucc.edu

**Technology Requirements**

To prepare your computer for using Blackboard 9.1, go to [https://iol.tamucc.edu/techreq.php](https://iol.tamucc.edu/techreq.php) for computer requirements.

- To view flash (.flv) files from sites such as You Tube, download the Flash player at [http://get.adobe.com/flashplayer/](http://get.adobe.com/flashplayer/)

**Navigating Blackboard 9.1**

Once you are in the course, read the “Announcements” on the home page. Check this each time you enter your course. You will see a **Course Menu** on the left of the page. The menu is a list of links that connect to materials and tools associated with the course. Blackboard has several features and tools for communicating content delivery that you should use almost daily. Links to information about how to use these tools include: **Bb Help**, which contains a complete guide to learning how to use the many tools and features in Blackboard, and **Bb Video Tutorials**, which links to a page with videos to show you how to do tasks such as submitting an assignment.

**Library resources** (including print, electronic, and human) can be accessed through the Mary and Jeff Bell Library website that supports electronic searches of articles, books, journals, course reserves, and databases. It includes information such as Ask a Librarian, research tools, remote access information and tutorials, information about plagiarism and copyright, and interlibrary loan ([http://rattler.tamucc.edu/distlearn/](http://rattler.tamucc.edu/distlearn/)). The library is a member of TexShare which provides you with a card that allows you to checkout materials from libraries across Texas. Librarians’ contact information is also on the website and you are encouraged to contact librarians for assistance.
In the event of a campus evacuation I will make every effort to continue teaching your course. Should such an event occur, I will continue to interact with you by using the Blackboard Announcement, Messages, Collaboration, Discussions, Blogs, Journals, and/or Wikis tools. If you have access to the Internet, you will be able to continue your coursework by posting assignments and interacting with me as well as each other online. You will also be able see your grades on assignments, quizzes, and tests using the My Grades tool.

Online Course Guidelines

Students will practice respect and responsibility as a part of this learning community. Here are some things you can do to exhibit an attitude of respect and responsibility:

- Post assignments on time. Early is even better.
- Work extra hard to get to know other classmates.
- Reach out through email Blackboard Messages, Discussions, and Wikis to support each other. If you have good info/tips on what is working for you/resource ideas, please share with the group so we can help each other out.
- Respect other classmates by watching what you say.
- Add your opinions to/participate in the discussions.
- Check the assignments every week. Don’t wait until the last minute.
- Be helpful to other students
- Don't get behind. If you get behind in an online course it is harder to get back on track than it is in a traditional course.
- Stay focused and stay connected.
- Keep up with your assignments and your grades. It is not the teacher's responsibility to tell you what you have or haven't turned in. Your grades will be available in Blackboard so all you have to do is regularly check to make sure you have grades posted for all work.
- In general terms, students are expected to "demonstrate a high level of maturity, self-direction and ability to manage their own affairs" and to "conduct themselves in accordance with the highest standards of academic honesty." Instances of plagiarism will be handled in accordance with Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi General Academic Policies and Regulations as listed in the current catalog.

Delivery of instructor feedback – During the week (exclude weekends), Instructor response to online requests usually occurs within a 24-hour period, but you can expect a response within 3 days.

Student login expectations - Students are required to login often – once every three days at a minimum. It is recommended that students check daily for announcements and updates.

Faculty availability to support students - I maintain a consistent web presence and am available to meet online in the Blackboard asynchronous or synchronous environment or via phone.
N. GENERAL DISCLAIMER

I reserve the right to modify the information, schedule, assignments, deadlines, and course policies in this syllabus if and when necessary. I will announce such changes in a timely manner during regularly scheduled lecture periods.